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[PRO HAC VICE]

Attorneys for Defendant
TARGET CORPORATION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VIGEN TOVMASYAN,
individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

TARGET CORPORATION, a
corporation, and DOES 1-20,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:25-cv-02314-MRA-KS

Assigned to District Judge:
Hon. Monica Ramirez Almadani
Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge:
Hon. Karen L. Stevenson

**AMENDED STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

1 **1. A. PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS**

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
3 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
4 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may
5 be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to
6 enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this
7 Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
8 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends
9 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment
10 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth
11 in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them
12 to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the
13 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party
14 seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

15 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

16 This action involves claims that Defendants falsely advertised dip products
17 with labels stating “no artificial preservatives,” despite the inclusion of citric acid,
18 which Plaintiff alleges is an artificial preservative. The litigation is expected to
19 involve extensive discovery into Defendants’ product formulation, ingredient
20 sourcing, labeling decisions, marketing strategies, and internal testing or regulatory
21 compliance documents, including communications with suppliers and industry
22 consultants.

23 These materials may include proprietary research and development
24 documents, product testing data, internal communications about ingredient
25 classifications, private supplier contracts, and confidential marketing or consumer
26 analysis reports, which, if made public, could cause competitive harm.
27 Additionally, the case may involve third-party discovery from suppliers or
28 regulatory experts, which could include commercially sensitive information not

1 otherwise publicly disclosed, including ingredient sourcing methods,
2 manufacturing processes, or contractual pricing terms.

3 Discovery may also touch on customer complaints or communications,
4 which could implicate consumer privacy concerns and include personally
5 identifiable information (PII). Both parties anticipate the production of materials
6 subject to contractual confidentiality obligations with third parties, including
7 labeling consultants, manufacturers, and co-packers.

8 Accordingly, good cause exists to enter a protective order to:

- 9
- 10 • Prevent public disclosure of commercially sensitive and competitively
valuable business information;
 - 11 • Protect the privacy rights of third parties and consumers;
 - 12 • Comply with contractual and statutory confidentiality obligations;
 - 13 • Expedite the flow of discovery;
 - 14 • Minimize discovery disputes; and
 - 15 • Facilitate the fair and efficient adjudication of this matter.

16 It is the intent of the parties that confidentiality designations will be made in
17 good faith and not for tactical advantage, and that no document shall be designated
18 as confidential unless it is truly non-public and deserving of protection under
19 applicable law. This proposed protective order is narrowly tailored to balance the
20 public's interest in access to court records with the legitimate need to preserve the
21 confidentiality of specific, sensitive business and personal information.

22 **2. DEFINITIONS**

23 2.1 Action: Vigen Tovmasyan v. Target Corporation, C.D. Cal. Case No.
24 2:24-cv-08625-SRM-MAR.

25 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the
26 designation of information or items under this Order.

27 2.3 "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items: information (regardless of
28 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for

1 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
2 the Good Cause Statement.

3 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
4 their support staff).

5 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
6 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
7 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

8 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
9 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
10 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced
11 or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

12 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
13 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
14 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

15 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
16 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
17 counsel.

18 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association,
19 or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

20 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a
21 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and
22 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm
23 which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

24 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
25 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
26 support staffs).

27 2.12 Producing Party: A Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
28 Discovery Material in this Action.

1 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation
2 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
3 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
4 and their employees and subcontractors.

5 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
6 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

7 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
8 Material from a Producing Party.

9 **3. SCOPE**

10 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
11 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
12 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
13 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
14 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

15 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
16 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

17 **4. DURATION**

18 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
19 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
20 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
21 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action,
22 with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
23 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
24 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
25 pursuant to applicable law.

26 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

27 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.
28

1 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection
2 under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material
3 that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must
4 designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or
5 written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material,
6 documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not
7 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

8 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
9 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
10 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
11 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating
12 Party to sanctions.

13 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
14 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
15 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

16 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
17 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
18 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
19 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
20 produced.

21 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

22 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
23 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
24 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
25 "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that
26 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
27 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
28 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

1 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
2 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
3 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
4 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
5 deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the
6 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine
7 which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then,
8 before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the
9 "CONFIDENTIAL legend" to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a
10 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing
11 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
12 markings in the margins).

13 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify
14 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the
15 deposition all protected testimony.

16 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and
17 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on
18 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the
19 legend "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information
20 warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
21 protected portion(s).

22 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
23 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
24 the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
25 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
26 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
27 Order.

28 ///

1 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

2 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
3 designation of confidentiality. A challenge is timely if made within thirty (30) days
4 of the production or identification of the document or information at issue, or within
5 thirty (30) days of when the Challenging Party reasonably becomes aware of the
6 basis for the challenge.

7 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
8 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

9 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
10 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
11 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
12 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating
13 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall
14 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
15 entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the
16 challenge.

17 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

18 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that
19 is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
20 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
21 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
22 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
23 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
24 DISPOSITION).

25 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
26 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
27 authorized under this Order.
28

1 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
2 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
3 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
4 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

5 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
6 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
7 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

8 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
9 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

10 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
11 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
12 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

13 (d) the court and its personnel;

14 (e) court reporters and their staff;

15 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
16 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
17 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

18 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
19 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

20 (h) during their depositions, witnesses ,and attorneys for witnesses, in the
21 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
22 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2) they
23 will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
24 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
25 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
26 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
27 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except
28 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

(a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the

1 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
2 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

3 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
4 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
5 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's
6 confidential information, then the Party shall:

7 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-
8 Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
9 agreement with a Non-Party;

10 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
11 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
12 specific description of the information requested; and

13 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
14 Non-Party, if requested.

15 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
16 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
17 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
18 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall
19 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
20 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
21 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and
22 expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

23 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

24 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
25 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
26 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
27 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts
28 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person

1 or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this
2 Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and
3 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

4 **11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**
5 **PROTECTED MATERIAL**

6 11.1 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
7 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,
8 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil
9 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever
10 procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production
11 without prior privilege review..

12 11.2 The production of privileged or work-product protected documents,
13 electronically stored information, or other information, whether inadvertent or
14 otherwise, is not a waiver of the privilege or protection from discovery in this case
15 or in any other federal or state proceeding. This Order shall be interpreted to provide
16 the maximum protection allowed by Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d). Upon
17 notification of an inadvertent production, the Receiving Party must promptly return
18 or destroy the specified information and any copies it has and may not use or
19 disclose the information until the claim is resolved.

20 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

21 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
22 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

23 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
24 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
25 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
26 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
27 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.
28

1 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
2 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
3 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
4 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
5 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
6 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

7 12.4 Entry of Order. The Parties agree to be bound by the terms set forth
8 herein with regard to any Confidential Information or Items that have been
9 produced before the Court signs this Order.

10 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

11 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
12 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
13 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
14 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,
15 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the
16 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the
17 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if
18 not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that
19 (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was
20 returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any
21 copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or
22 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel
23 are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial,
24 deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition
25 and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert
26 work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival
27 copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective
28 Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: August 6, 2025

/s/Valter Malkhasyan

Valter Malkhasyan
Attorneys for Plaintiff Vigen Tovmasyan
and the Proposed Class

DATED: August 6, 2025

/s/Brent R. Owen

Brent R. Owen
Attorneys for Defendant Target Corporation

DATED: August 6, 2025

/s/Daniel Lammie

Daniel Lammie
Attorneys for Defendant Target Corporation

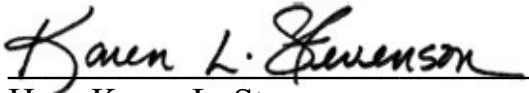
DATED: August 6, 2025

/s/Letitia Johnson Smith

Letitia Johnson Smith
Attorneys for Defendant Target Corporation

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: August 8, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen L. Stevenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Hon. Karen L. Stevenson
Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury
that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that
was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California
on [date] in the case of Vigen Tovmasyan v. Target Corporation, C.D. Cal. Case
No. 2:24-cv-08625-SRM-MAR.. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the
terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that
failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of
contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information
or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity
except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order. I further agree to
submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District
of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.
I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
_____ [print or type full address and
telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with
this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective
Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

CM/ECF ATTESTATION

Pursuant to Local Rule 5-4.3.4(a)(2)(i), I hereby attest that all other signatories listed, on whose behalf this filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the filing thereof.

/s/ Valter Malkhasyan

Valter Malkhasyan